

men were created equal and had those inalienable rights.

In honor of those students' heroic efforts, I would like to make three observations regarding their actions and their implications.

First, these sit-ins and other forms of nonviolent protests changed the climate and character of our country forever. As a direct result of SNCC sit-ins, protests, and boycotts, cities around the country, the South in particular, began to integrate their businesses in 1960, and thereafter, paving the way for the entire country to do so.

SNCC's work was not limited to integration of places of public accommodation. SNCC worked with the NAACP to achieve the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation not only at places of public accommodation, but also in schools, in hiring, and in voting registration. Shortly thereafter, in the wake of these achievements, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Second, despite SNCC's plethora of victories, their work was not easy, uncontroversial, or even safe. Those dedicated students faced clubs, tear gas, and high-pressure fire hoses at peaceful marches. Many faced harassment and beatings from racial dissenters, and many were arrested and even jailed despite their nonviolence. Some lost their lives.

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These challenges posed by opposition did not stop SNCC. They continued to march, sit in, boycott, and to raise awareness for equal treatment and opportunities regardless of race—all shown on television—raising America's consciousness in seeing that morality was the future of this country.

For example, in Louisiana, student protesters were expelled from schools and were barred from the State's public colleges and universities. After the State barred these students from receiving the education they deserved, their peers boycotted classes for years.

The sit-in movement spanned across many States, including my State of Tennessee. The Nashville sit-in movement led to its being the first major city to begin the desegregation of its public facilities on May 10 of 1960. In Memphis, students from Le Moyne College and Owen Junior College also organized sit-ins at the main public library and local department stores.

Lastly, as I reflect on these important changes of the students that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee brought about in our country to bring it closer to the democratic ideals on which it was founded, I cannot help but be reminded of how far our country still has to go to achieve the goals that were set out in the Declaration of Independence.

Glaring inequality still exists in education, housing, health, marriage, and other civil rights. America still has a distance to go.

It is critical that we look to the accomplishments of the SNCC as an in-

spiration to work harder for civil rights that have not yet been met and not as a pacifier to convince ourselves that we truly live up to the name "free country."

With that said, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the sit-in movement that it sparked, which really sparked the justice movement in our Nation, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORBES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 1566. This resolution recognizes and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which is also known as SNCC, and the national sit-in movement in the 1960s.

The SNCC was a key contributor to the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The nonviolent aims of the SNCC helped bring about desegregation, civil rights, and voting rights for all Americans.

The SNCC formed under the leadership of Ella Baker at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, in April 1960. A conference was held for students to share experiences and to coordinate activities with regard to racial equality. As sit-ins occurred throughout the South, the SNCC grew into a large organization. By August of 1961, the movement had attracted more than 70,000 participants.

The SNCC's nonviolent sit-ins, boycotts, and protests helped bring about the desegregation of places of public accommodation. The SNCC was also one of the leaders of the Freedom Rides in 1961 and of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. SNCC Freedom Riders put themselves at great risk by traveling in racially integrated groups throughout the South. More than 400 people took part in these Freedom Rides throughout the spring and summer of 1961.

Robert Parris Moses helped transform the SNCC from a student protest group to a community-based political organization for the rural poor. He led a voter registration project in Mississippi in 1961 that became a springboard for similar SNCC activities from 1962 to 1966.

The SNCC's voter registration efforts culminated in 1964 with the Mississippi Summer Project, which was sponsored by the SNCC, by the Congress of Racial Equality, and by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Hundreds of black and white volunteers from the North and South participated in voter registration projects.

The SNCC also organized Freedom Schools for the purpose of eradicating fear and educating African Americans about their right to vote and to participate in the democratic process.

Finally, the SNCC worked with the NAACP to bring about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It is clear that the nonviolent sit-ins of the students who began the SNCC in 1960 inspired others later to take historic steps toward the building of racial equality in America, so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3534, CONSOLIDATED LAND, ENERGY, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT OF 2010; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5851, OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS WORKER WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-582) on the resolution (H. Res. 1574) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3534) to provide greater efficiencies, transparency, returns, and accountability in the administration of Federal mineral and energy resources by consolidating administration of various Federal energy minerals management and leasing programs into one entity to be known as the Office of Federal Energy and Minerals Leasing of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5851) to provide whistleblower protections to certain workers in the offshore oil and gas industry, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL SIT-IN MOVEMENT—Continued

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman who is the hero of the civil rights movement, a person who personally experienced the times of which we are speaking, who is, I believe, one of the founders of SNCC and a gentleman with whom we are privileged to serve and to know in America, who helped make America the country it is today and who is helping to move it forward to be the country that it needs to be, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my colleague, my brother, and my friend, Mr. COHEN, for introducing this resolution with me. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia, along with Chairman CONYERS and members of the Judiciary Committee, for bringing this resolution to the floor tonight.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and appropriate that we pause to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, better known as SNCC. It grew